(c) whether this Act, in effect, has caused the rescindment of the amended statutes; and

(d) whether the judiciary has refused to entertain such proceedings on the basis of interpretation suggested by the Act?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) It was brought to the notice of the Government that on the repeal of the Banking, Public Financial Institutions and Negotiable Instruments Laws (Amendment) Act, 1988 by the Repealing and Amending Act, 2001, the courts did not entertain new complaints of bouncing of cheques under sections 138 to 142 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. With a view to dispel the misunderstanding, the Government immediately issued a press release explaining the true effect and scope of the Repealing and Amending Act, 2001. The position has also been explained to the Bar Council of India with the request to disseminate the correct position to others concerned.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. The misunderstanding was not warranted by the Act in question. However, the correct position has been clarified.

Special courts for rape victims

2305. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the Chief Justice of India at the Judicial colloquy organised by the National Judicial Academy of India on 5th September, 2001, calling upon judges to ensure that victims of rapes and other such indignities are not subjected to further indignities at the trial stage;

(b) whether any special court is proposed to be set up for trial of such cases and special procedure for their trial has been or being evolved in the light of CJA's observations; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On 5th September, 2001 training part of Indo-British Training Project on 'Gender & Law* was launched by the then Hon'ble Chief Justice of India. Thereafter, fifteen 3-days judicial colloquia on 'Gender & Law' were organised by the National Judicial academy af 13 different places of India, covering almost every part of the country and all the High Courts, from 29th September, 2001 to 29th December, 2001. These colloquia were inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the concerned High Court and its valedictory and other session were chaired by senior-most Hon'ble Judges of the respective High Courts. During these colloquia, about 835 judicial officers were trained on how to deal with cases concerning gender laws and they were asked to disseminate the experience gained by them among other judicial officers of their States. Resource pack containing message dated 25th September, 2001 of the then Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, suggesting effective practice and procedures to be followed by the Judicial Officers during the trial of rape or other sexual abuse cases, was also widely circulated and discussed among judicial officers and participants to the above judicial colloquia.

However, as per information available, Women Courts have been constituted in the States of Andhra Pradesh (3) , Karnataka (4), Rajasthan (4) and NCT of Delhi (6).

Central grant for construction of courts and residential accommodation

2306. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central grants are released to the State for the construction of High Courts, District Courts and residential accommodation for Judges therein;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;